



Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 10:30 am

**PRELUDE**

*Belinda Vair, Organist and Choir Director*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (leader, **PEOPLE**)

God, we come with hesitant steps and uncertain motives to sweep out the corners where sin has accumulated and uncover the ways we have strayed from Your truth.

**EXPOSE THE EMPTY AND BARREN PLACES  
WHERE WE DON'T ALLOW YOU TO ENTER.**

Reveal our half-hearted struggles where we have been indifferent to the suffering of others.

**NURTURE THE FAINT STIRRINGS OF NEW LIFE,  
WHERE YOUR SPIRIT HAS BEGUN TO GROW.**

Let your healing light transform us into the image of Your Son.

**FOR YOU ALONE CAN FIND US IN THIS COLD AND DARK WINTER OF SLUMBER  
AND AWAKEN US TO NEW LIFE AND MAKE US WHOLE.**

**OPENING HYMN**

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

#387

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare:  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free:  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, early let us turn to Thee.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor; early let us do Thy will;  
Blessèd Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill:  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

**PRAYERS OF CONFESSION** (leader, **PEOPLE**)

God of grace, we confess that we have elevated the things of this world above you.

**WE HAVE MADE IDOLS OF POSSESSIONS AND PEOPLE.**

We have used your name for causes that are not consistent with you and your purposes.

**WE HAVE PERMITTED OUR SCHEDULES TO COME FIRST  
AND HAVE NOT TAKEN THE TIME TO WORSHIP YOU.**

We have not always honored those who guided us in life.

**WE HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SYSTEMS THAT TAKE LIFE INSTEAD OF GIVE IT.**

We have been unfaithful in our covenant relationships.

**WE HAVE YEARNED FOR, AND SOMETIMES TAKEN, THAT WHICH IS NOT OURS,  
AND WE HAVE MISREPRESENTED OTHERS' INTENTIONS.**

Forgive us, O God, for the many ways we fall short of your glory.

**HELP US TO LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER ACCORDING TO YOUR WAYS THROUGH  
JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD.**

(Silent Prayers)

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

### **GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.  
World without end, amen! Amen!

### **OLD TESTAMENT**

Psalm 25

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **HYMN**

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

#84

In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me: Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

### **NEW TESTAMENT**

Mark 1:9-15

### **SERMON**

"The Readers Digest Gospel"

### **SENDING HYMN**

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

#81

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,  
Teach us with You to mourn our sins, and close by You to stay.

As You with Satan did contend, and did the victory win,  
O give us strength in You to fight, in You to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through Your Passiontide,  
Yea, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over-past,  
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!

## **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Belinda Vair*